

REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 15, 2010 and the Advisory Action, dated April 15, 2010. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-14, 16, 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Merrill (U.S. Pub. 2002/0008703). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Rejections under §103(a)

Claim 1 is amended to recite the limitations of detecting a statement includes pattern matching criteria comprising an identifier associated with a container object that is associated with one or more graphical components. Claim 1 is further amended to recite that a graphical component satisfies the pattern matching criteria when the graphical component is one of the one or more graphical components associated with the container object. Support for these limitations can be found at, among other places, pp. 16-17 of the present application. Merrill fails to teach or suggest these limitations.

Merrill discloses a Visual Basic programming environment that uses OLE (Object Linking and Embedding) control as an interface. At paragraph [0024], Merrill discloses a data encapsulation technique where an object is associated with various "properties" that can be associated with one or more methods/functions. Accordingly, "the object hides its internal composition, structure and operation and exposes its functionality to client programs that utilize the object only through one or more interfaces" (see Merrill at paragraph [0024]). As an example, paragraph [0326] of Merrill recites a command in a script that states: "agent.object.Property=value," which specifies that the term "value" is set as the amount of the parameter "Property" of the object "agent.object."

The Examiner specifically points to paragraph [0340] of Merrill for disclosing the claimed pattern matching criteria. However, this passage of Merrill discloses only the standard Visual Basic programming environment that uses OLE, which is described above. As would be well understood by persons having ordinary skill in the art, conventional programming languages, such as Visual Basic, allow a programmer to set the value of a single variable or parameter per command. The OLE system can be implemented as a Component Object Model (COM) that exhibits "polymorphism," which

"refers to the ability to view (i.e., interact with) two similar objects through a common interface" (see Merrill at para. [0125]). However, the concept of polymorphism is not equivalent to defining a separate container object associated with one or more graphical components, as claimed.

As described in Merrill, a "COM object also exhibits polymorphism and inheritance in that it can provide interfaces in common with a base class and other similar objects, so that client programs can interact with each of the objects in the same manner by calling member functions of the interface that the objects have in common" (see Merrill at para. [0132]) (emphasis added). Thus, according to the teachings of Merrill, two different objects can have the same interface, so that the different two objects can be manipulated using two similar commands. However, such a technique does not contemplate a single container object that is associated with one or more graphical components, where a statement in a script includes pattern matching criteria comprising an identifier associated with the container object, as claimed. Even when implementing polymorphism, separate commands must be made to manipulate separate objects, although the commands may be similar or identical. A problem with the polymorphism technique is that when many objects need to be modified, the same command may need to be repeated many times. This is exactly the problem solved by the claimed invention, which enables pattern matching criteria to be implemented so that only a single command is needed to modify multiple objects.

As shown in Figure 2 of the present application and as claimed, a statement includes pattern matching criteria comprising an identifier associated with a container object associated with one or more graphical components. An example of the claimed container object is referenced by the "boxarray" container identifier shown in Figure 2 of the present application. Using the single statement 240, each graphical component included in the boxarray is modified using the claimed technique. Such an approach is simply not taught or suggested by Merrill.

As the foregoing illustrates, Merrill fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, Merrill cannot render claim 1 obvious. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable and requests allowance of the claim. Furthermore, independent claims 8, 12, and 18 recite limitations similar to

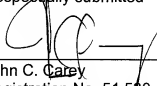
those of claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. The remaining claims depend from allowable claims 1, 8, 12, and 18, thereby also placing these claims into condition for allowance.

In addition, Merrill also fails to teach or suggest the limitations of the container object comprising an array, as now recited in new claims 23-24. As described on pp. 16-17 of the present application, an array object may be declared in a script to define the set of objects managed by the container object. Nowhere does Merrill teach or suggest that an array can be used to define the container object. For these reasons, claims 23-24 are allowable independent of their allowability as being dependent on an allowable independent claim.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed January 15, 2010 and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted



John C. Carey
Registration No. 51,580
Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)